

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING ERIC ATKINSON, PRESIDENT OF ATKINSON CANDY COMPANY

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to recognize today an east Texas man and an east Texas family who have realized the American dream the old-fashioned way—through a lifetime of hard work with complete dedication to his family, to his community, and to his craft.

Eric Atkinson is President of the company founded by his grandfather B.E. Atkinson Sr. in 1932. Atkinson Candy Company of Lufkin, Texas is not only a beloved landmark in Angelina County, it is a Texas tradition with a loyal following of candy lovers all over the world. The company still uses the original family recipes and machinery to make its iconic signature Chick-O-Stick, Peanut Butter Bar, Long Boy, and other legendary candies. In fact, his peppermint recipe uses ingredients of such phenomenal quality that exceptional strategic work was required in order to manufacture it in a way that keeps the costs from being astronomical.

Eric is an active leader in the candy industry who has held a position on the board of the Convenience Distribution Association for more than fifteen years. For his commitment to the industry, Eric has received accolades from numerous trade groups, including the 1990 Candy Man of the Year from Southern Tobacco & Candy Association, the 1998 Dean Award and a 2013 Hall of Fame recognition from the Convenience Distribution Association, and the Doc Reed Silver Candy Dish Award from the National Confectioners' Association in 2008. He also received a 2010 nomination for the Kettle Award, which is the highest recognition an individual working within the U.S. confectionery industry can attain. Most recently, Eric Atkinson was honored by being inducted into the prestigious 2015 National Confectionery Sales Association's Candy Hall of Fame following in the footsteps of his father Dr. Basil E. Atkinson Jr., who was named to the Candy Hall of Fame in 2011.

Away from the confection industry, Eric is an avid supporter of area athletic programs as well as our nation's military and regularly makes product donations to charitable events all over the region. His organization also extends its goodwill worldwide, shipping sweets from the legendary candy kitchen to American military personnel serving overseas.

It is a distinct privilege to honor this remarkable man along with his organization, his family and their cumulative legacy of excellence, extraordinary leadership, exemplary character, boundless enthusiasm, and a work ethic that never ever quits. Eric Atkinson's commitment to time honored quality and the preservation of family values is now recorded in this CONGRESSIONAL RECORD which will endure as long as there is a United States of America.

RECOGNIZING MR. CHARLES THOMAS HEAD FOR HIS LIFETIME OF SERVICE

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a distinguished citizen in my district, Mr. Charles Thomas Head. Later this month, Tommy will be retiring from banking after 38 years of tremendous service to the Mills County community.

Tommy began his career at Mills State Bank as a loan officer on October 1, 1977. He served in this position for nearly ten years before being elected President of Mills County State Bank. As president, his leadership helped the bank grow from \$30 million in assets to over \$290 million in assets. Tommy's hard work also helped the bank expand from one location to five throughout the area.

Although his professional accomplishments are impressive, Tommy's work within the community is even more extraordinary. He has been an active leader in countless community initiatives, including Goldthwaite's Texas Botanical Gardens & Native American Interpretive Center. The Native American Interpretive Center allows many residents of Mills County the opportunity to learn firsthand how generations of Native Americans in Texas have utilized the abundant resources Texas has to offer. The Texas Botanical Gardens is a living museum that offers visitors a look at the native plant species that were utilized by civilizations dating back 10–12,000 years ago. Many of these community initiatives would not be possible had it not been for the hard work, time, and dedication of Tommy Head.

In addition, Tommy has also been instrumental in assisting local high school students who have won the Congressional Art Competition. This event is a districtwide art contest where students submit entries to their representative's office. The winner of the competition is recognized with their artwork here in Washington, D.C. Many of these winners have come from Mills County, and Tommy has always voluntarily taken care of the costs associated with this trip for these students and their guardians. For many of these students, this is a trip of a lifetime and it is all possible because of Tommy's generosity.

We are blessed to have individuals in our country like Tommy. His selfless qualities exemplify every aspect of the American spirit and make our communities stronger. Tommy's lifetime of service will forever be an example of how people can make their home a better place.

On behalf of the 11th District, I am honored to recognize Tommy's distinguished career in serving Mills County. I wish nothing but the best for him and his wife, Wynona, as they embark on a new chapter in their life.

IN HONOR OF THE LATE SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of the late Shirley Chisholm whose courage helped pave the way, for a little black girl from Selma to walk the hallowed halls of Congress as the Representative from Alabama's 7th Congressional District.

I strongly believe that in order to be a Congresswoman, I had to first see myself as a Congresswoman. The person who most embodied that was Shirley Chisholm. Through her—I was able to see that I too could be in Congress. I too could represent my community and work towards positive change for people who were denied a seat at the table.

I am fortunate to have met Ms. Chisholm before she passed away. I took a train to Mount Holyoke my senior year at Princeton to interview Ms. Chisholm for my senior thesis, "Black Women in Politics: Our Time Has Come." As luck would have it, it started to snow just as soon as I sat down in the chair across from her. My thirty minute interview turned into a four hour interview, and Ms. Chisholm shared the challenges and struggles she encountered as the first African-American woman ever elected to Congress.

Whenever I feel the weight of the world resting on my shoulder . . . I walk by her portrait hanging in the Capitol to remind myself of her strength, courage, and conviction. I know that whatever challenges I have encountered pale in comparison to the trials she faced. It was not easy for her to walk the halls of Congress as the only black woman. She opened the door for Barbara Jordan, and everyone else who followed including me.

Even though many barriers have been broken since her tenure here, there is still much work to do. Ms. Chisholm once said that "service is the rent we pay for the privilege of living on this earth." I can only hope that my service in this august body will one day inspire others to work for a better, more just society in the same manner that Shirley Chisholm has inspired me.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND ACHIEVEMENT OF RONALD MATHEWS

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary service of Mr. Ronald Mathews. Ronald, a lifelong resident of the City of Struthers, Ohio, has recently retired from a remarkable career as an elected councilman for 26 years spanning 13 election cycles—the longest tenure of service in the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

town's history. As a union member for the Teamsters local 377, Ron always felt he was representing the middle class and working families. He was most proud when he could vote in favor of projects that would put union members to work and make the City of Struthers a better place to live and raise a family. Public servants like Ronald are what makes the civic fabric of the United States so strong. He will be missed in public life, but can enjoy retirement knowing he contributed greatly to Struthers. Ron loves Struthers, he loves his family, and has earned the respect of the citizens of our region. We were lucky to have him as a leader in our community, and I wish him a wonderful retirement with his wife, Pat, and 6 children.

TRIBUTE TO DETECTIVE FIRST
GRADE DENNIS C. DERIENZO

HON. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Detective First Grade Dennis DeRienzo of the New York City Police Department, Aviation Unit, for his dedication to the citizens of New York City and this Nation.

After 22½ years of service in the NYPD—the last ten years as Chief Pilot for the Aviation Unit—he retired on November 30th, 2015. He was appointed to the NYPD in August 1993 and subsequently entered Military Extended Leave from the NYPD. He served with distinction in the United States Marine Corps. Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in June 1993, he graduated Naval Flight School in August 1996 and served as an AH-1W Super Cobra Pilot. In February 1999, while serving with Marine Light Attack Squadron 269 (HMLA-269), then-Captain DeRienzo suffered serious injuries in a crash. After the mishap, he was medically retired from the Marines as a result of his injuries after the Class A Mishap. Following extensive medical treatment and rehabilitation, he returned to active service with the New York City Police Department.

Detective DeRienzo was transferred to the NYPD Aviation Unit on September 10th, 2001, and was appointed Chief Pilot in July 2005. He has served as Chief Pilot for 10 years. During his years of service in the Aviation Unit, he guided and executed countless rescues of civilians and mariners. He likewise conducted countless support operations for his NYPD brothers and sisters on the ground. Additionally, Det. DeRienzo carried out multiple support operations for the President of the United States and distinguished visitors to the City of New York.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Detective DeRienzo on his retirement from the NYPD and thank him for his dedication and service to this Nation and the People of the City of New York. I wish him and his family well in all future endeavors.

HONORING CONGRESSWOMAN
SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor one of my personal heroes, former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, who posthumously received the Presidential Medal of Freedom last week.

Congresswoman Chisholm was the first Black woman elected to the U.S. Congress and the first woman (and African American) to run for a major party's presidential nomination. The Congresswoman was also one of the 12 founders of the Congressional Black Caucus. She was a catalyst for change.

To quote Congresswoman Chisholm, "You don't make progress by standing on the sidelines, whimpering and complaining. You make progress by implementing ideas."

Let us remember her words during the remainder of our legislative session. The Members of this House have the opportunity to implement ideas that can transform this nation.

Just yesterday, we approved the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and address some of our nation's most pressing public education issues. The bill protects Title I funding, ensures equitable allocation of resources to schools, recognizes the importance of after-school education, and maintains subgroup disaggregation of data for reporting. The ESSA also gives states and local school districts more flexibility, while preserving the federal role in education and ensuring that states and districts honor the civil rights legacy of ESEA.

I am pleased my colleagues came together to pass this important bill. While not perfect, the ESSA is a step forward for public education in this country.

As Congresswoman Chisholm also said, "I don't measure America by its achievement but by its potential." Yesterday's actions showed the nation this Congress has great potential to put politics aside and serve the best interests of the American people.

May we continue in this spirit, and let us honor Congresswoman Chisholm by working together to improve the lives of all Americans.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PAUL T.
O'DOWD, JR.

HON. AMI BERA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Lieutenant Colonel Paul T. O'Dowd, Jr.

Colonel O'Dowd was a father, husband, teacher, and American hero whose life was dedicated to service. After graduating high school in San Francisco, he joined the Marine Corps, fighting for his country in the Pacific Theater of World War II as a tail gunner on B-52 aircraft. Upon his return, he attended the University of San Francisco and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army Reserve.

In 1949, Paul volunteered for active duty and was stationed in Washington. When fighting in Korea broke out, he was assigned as forward observer in the 2nd Infantry Division. In 1951, Paul was captured by North Korean forces. Declared killed in action, he was held and tortured for 938 days. After nearly three years, he was released. For his meritorious conduct in captivity, Paul was awarded the Bronze Star.

His service in the Army did not end after his ordeal. Paul continued to work for his country throughout the Cold War. He was stationed in Germany for three years and advised the Republic of China and the Chinese National Army, earning the recognitions of "Good Man of Good Deeds" and the Medal of Army Brilliance. For his service to his country, Paul O'Dowd was awarded two Bronze Stars, a Purple Heart, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal, the UN Service Medal, the Air Medal, and the Legion of Merit.

Paul was a dad, a teacher, a husband, and an inspiration to many. He was a man who served his country and his family faithfully and fearlessly, and he will be missed.

"AMERICAN HERO, FORMER POW,
REMEMBERED"

[From the Seoul Times]

For those who knew him he was Paul, "Digger," "The Old Man," "Dad," and "Friend" but others have said "he was an inspiration to keep the faith between brothers in arms." A True American Hero.

Dateline: Arlington National Cemetery. Dec. 3, 3:00 p.m. Full Military Honors. An honor guard marches, the band plays, as the caisson passes with flagged draped coffin to grave side.

Laid to rest and Flag folded, the volley fired, that let all present know that a hero has died, Taps plays the last time. He will receive the Medal of Army Brilliance, A Class from the Republic of China (Taiwan) for service to their defense.

His life was one of service to his country and community. As an educator with two master's degrees," he said. "He and Judy broke the norm with a marriage lasting 67 years." A Vets Veteran always helping others who had served. Making sure they received the benefits of their service both in the United States and overseas.

Paul T. O'Dowd Jr. was born in San Francisco Oct. 18, 1924, the son of Paul O'Dowd Sr. and Charlotta Belle Boudreaux O'Dowd. Grew up there and graduated from Lowell High School.

After graduation Paul enlisted in the Marine Corps for the duration, plus six months, during WWII and as a heavy machine gunner in the Marine Air Wing as tail gunner on B25's, he participated in four combat operations in the Pacific (Solomons, Leyte, Bismarck Archipelago, and Treasury Bougainville).

After the war, he attended the University of San Francisco under the G.I. Bill. In June of 1948 he was commissioned as an Army Reserve Second Lieutenant in the Coast Artillery.

When the Soviets denied Americans access to Berlin in early 1949, Paul volunteered for active duty and was assigned to the 37th Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division (ID), at Fort Lewis, Washington.

Shortly after the Korean War started, the 2nd Division was alerted for movement to Korea. Paul was transferred to "C" Battery, 15th Field Artillery as a forward observer.

From Pusan parameter to the breakout and all the way north and back south again supporting the Division and the units they supported.

In mid-February 1951 he was captured and held POW for 938 days. All the while the US Army had him declared KIA without a body. Over and over again he was isolated and beaten and put in solitary confinement for defying them.

The last to cross the bridge of no return, officially repatriated on 6 September 1953 two days after they closed down the POW reception station from operation "Big Switch."

At 5'10" and only 89 lbs. he was truly at death's door. Arrested, as he was not on any POW rosters, Paul was taken to Tokyo for interrogation, he proved himself and was recognized by Officers.

He went to school with other POW's having stood up against the torture and indoctrination of the Red Chinese and North Korean communist propaganda.

He was released, transferred stateside and spent more than six months at Letterman Army Hospital as a patient recuperating. He was then assigned as an assistant professor of military science in a ROTC program at the University of San Francisco.

While in this position, 1st Lt. O'Dowd was decorated by Major General William F. Dean with the Bronze Star for his meritorious achievements and conduct while a prisoner of war. Very rarely are POWs decorated for their actions while a prisoner.

On the Speakers Bureau; Paul would speak to groups about the brainwashing that occurred in the communists POW camps.

During the Cold War Captain O'Dowd was stationed in Germany for three and a half years as a Nuclear Weapons Employment Officer, working in an Honest John Missile Battalion and later with a 280mm Gun Battalion.

He also spent three years as an advisor to the Chinese National Army on the island of Taiwan. (MAAG) While in Taiwan in 1966, Major O'Dowd also received an award from the Republic of China for "Good Man of Good Deeds," the highest honor in that country.

He stopped and rescued victims trapped in a burning building without considering his own safety and assisted in putting out the fire.

LTC O'Dowd received many medals and commendations for his military and civilian service; some are: two Bronze Stars with V device for Valor, a Purple Heart, the National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, UN Service Medal (Korea), The Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and The Legion of Merit. Chinese: Good Man of Good Deeds.

Teacher and educator, a scholar, a soldier, a good representative of the American way of life, and a family man; Paul was the real deal, a straight shooter and a True American Hero.

Having lived a long life, most of it in service to our country, to his fellow service members, and veterans, Paul O'Dowd died July 27, 2015 in his home in California at the age of 90.

The Defense Attaché: RADM Yang from the Republic of China (Taiwan) will present Paul at the funeral the Medal of Army Brilliance, A Class, signed by their Minister of National Defense to honor LTC O'Dowd's contribution to their defense.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S BELOVED F.M. "BUBBA" FISHER

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of

Northwest Florida's beloved F.M. "Bubba" Fisher. A native son of Northwest Florida, Bubba's contributions to his community are unparalleled, and all of Northwest Florida mourns his passing.

Bubba was born and raised in Santa Rosa County, Florida. The youngest of nine children, he learned the value of hard work from his parents and siblings, while developing a lifelong love of the outdoors. After graduating from Milton High School in 1941, Bubba went to work in the family business until the tragic attack on Pearl Harbor, when he answered the call of duty, enlisting to serve in the U.S. Navy. During World War II, Bubba served with honor and distinction in the Pacific Theatre until the end of the war, when he returned home to Northwest Florida. Back home, Bubba took over the family business from his father and married his wife of nearly 70 years, Mildred.

Bubba's commitment to service and his dedication to his community were exemplified by his many years of public service, including two terms on the Milton City Council, two terms on the Santa Rosa County Board of Commissioners, four and a half terms as the Santa Rosa County Property Appraiser, and two terms as Chairman of the Florida Property Appraiser's Association. In addition to his public service and business success, Bubba was deeply committed to serving the Lord and his church community. A life-long member of First Baptist Church of Milton, Bubba taught Sunday School for 25 years, and he and Mildred raised their children in a strong faith-based home.

Throughout his life, Bubba worked tirelessly to serve his Nation and community, to carry on the family business, and to help raise a family. To some Bubba will be remembered as a veteran, who joined with so many in the Greatest Generation to defeat fascism; to others he will be remembered as a long-time public servant, who went above and beyond to help better the community that he loved; to his friends and family, he will be most fondly remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to recognize the life and legacy of my friend, Bubba Fisher. My wife Vicki and I extend our heartfelt prayers and deepest condolences to his wife, Mildred; son, F.M. "Dusty"; grandchildren, Jason, Brandon, and Candice; great-grandchildren, Sarah, Ben, Grayson, Macey and Noah; and the entire Fisher family.

HONORING NAZARETH ACADEMY ON WINNING THEIR SECOND CONSECUTIVE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nazareth Academy and the Roadrunners football team. On November 26, the Nazareth Academy Roadrunners won their second consecutive Illinois High School Association football championship with an impressive 42-21 victory over Lincoln-Way West. I want to congratulate Coach Tim Racki, the

faculty and staff of Nazareth Academy, and the young men on this team whose dedication led to this achievement.

The Nazareth Academy varsity football team finished the season with a distinguished 12-2 record. In the championship game, Nazareth held an extraordinary 35-0 lead at halftime. Football is a demanding sport that requires teamwork, enthusiasm and perseverance. The Roadrunners demonstrated these qualities with true distinction.

But Nazareth is about more than football for the players. As Nazareth's principal Deborah Tracy said following the championship game, "More important than any one victory, Nazareth strives to develop more respectful, kind, faith-filled and service-oriented student-athletes." That was clear to me when I visited Nazareth after last year's championship.

This impressive victory was the sixth state championship win for Coach Tim Racki. Coach Racki's strong leadership and dedication propelled the Nazareth football team to success. The talents of Coach Racki have been evident throughout his career, and his commitment to sportsmanship is recognized throughout the state of Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this truly impressive achievement made by the Nazareth Academy Roadrunners football team and to congratulate them on their state championship. Additionally, I wish each player continued success as he moves forward.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call 657, I voted no but I intended to vote yes.

HONORING JOSHUA KEITH DUTCHER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joshua Keith Dutcher. Joshua is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 714, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joshua has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Joshua has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Joshua has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Joshua replaced the old wooden street signs with new metal signs in his hometown of Camden Point, Missouri. Thirty-four years prior, his father's Eagle Service Project was to build and install the wooden street signs that Joshua updated.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joshua Keith Dutcher for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING HARRY SERAYDARIAN

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Harry Seraydarian, who is retiring this year from his position as the Executive Director of the North Bay Watershed Association (NBWA) in Corte Madera, California. Mr. Seraydarian has worked tirelessly throughout his long and productive career to protect watershed resources and natural spaces in our region, both with the NBWA and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

A lifelong advocate for the environment, Mr. Seraydarian spent most of his working years in government. In his decades of service with the EPA, Mr. Seraydarian distinguished himself as a Director of the Water Management Division, Director of Toxics & Waste Management, and an Associate Regional Administrator in the EPA's Region 9. In his final role, he served as an in-house "neutral," using his extensive problem solving skills and technical knowledge to resolve disputes.

If there's a challenge unsuited to Mr. Seraydarian, it may be retirement. Following a 33-year federal career, he retired in 2002, but quickly reentered the workforce in 2004 as the NBWA's Executive Director. Under his leadership, the NBWA has funded 36 projects the North Bay, totaling nearly one million dollars. The Association, a consortium of 16 regional and local public agencies in Marin, Sonoma, and Napa counties, has encouraged collaboration across different levels of government, and, in no small part to Mr. Seraydarian's efforts, has enhanced stewardship efforts in the North Bay watershed.

Mr. Seraydarian's varied and significant talents, particularly in environmental mediation and conflict resolution, will not soon be forgotten. Our local environment is a better place today thanks to his technical abilities, managerial experience, and dedication to results-driven conservation.

Mr. Speaker, Harry Seraydarian's enduring commitment to improving our watersheds and environment is admirable and worthy of our recognition. I urge my colleagues to join me in extending our congratulations to him on his retirement and our best wishes to him on his next adventure.

NORTH AMERICAN ENERGY SECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 8) to modernize

energy infrastructure, build a 21st century energy and manufacturing workforce, bolster America's energy security and diplomacy, and promote energy efficiency and government accountability, and for other purposes:

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the crude oil export amendment.

In the past 10 years, the United States has undergone an energy revolution.

But due to our success in places like Texas, North Dakota and Colorado the price of oil has fallen from \$100 per barrel to \$40.

Gasoline prices have fallen from almost \$4 per gallon to less than \$2.

All of this has benefitted our economy and the consumer.

I support crude oil exports.

But I want to protect our domestic manufacturing jobs, including refining.

We have the resource, we should use as much as possible here at home and sell what is left.

The crude oil export ban has been in place since 1975.

In the 1970s, the United States put the ban in place to protect our national interests.

That's more than 40 years of legislative history.

Before we do away with that history, we should make sure we have a policy that will make sense for the next 40 years and perhaps beyond.

Crude oil is a valuable national resource and the government should have some oversight as to where and when we send crude overseas.

I was hoping we could craft language that would create a process at the Bureau of Industry and Security, within the Department of Commerce, that would establish an authorization and reporting requirements for crude oil.

We should have some basic requirements at the Department of Commerce to oversee crude.

Unlike LNG, crude is a raw commodity and raw crude doesn't have value added.

If exporting crude is the right policy, then let's do it correctly.

Let's maximize the benefits for the United States.

Let's make sure U.S. crude doesn't end up in the hands of North Korea or any of our other foes.

The Department of Commerce has approved every application to export oil in the last five years.

Now, I agree that the Department could approve permits more efficiently but that's something we can legislate.

That's a "fix" I can support and believe would help our upstream producers.

Unfortunately, we were unable to find that compromise.

I do not want to oppose this language but without changes it is not in the best interest of our country.

The time to address exports is now but we cannot just open the tap and hope for the best.

I do not want the United States to become a resource nation.

I look forward to working on this issue again and hope that a reasonable, commonsense approach can be reached.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 1177,
STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which seeks to replace the broken No Child Left Behind law. While I still have concerns with some provisions in this legislation, I believe this bill will serve our children better than the status quo. For example, the current waiver system has allowed states to ignore schools that are failing students. That is unacceptable and cannot continue.

I am concerned by the lack of federal oversight in implementing and enforcing many provisions of this bill. For example, states are left to determine how and when to intervene in schools that are failing children. We must guarantee that there is substantial federal role in ensuring states meet their obligations. Further, we must guarantee state and district implementation boards are inclusive, diverse, and adequately represent students of all needs and circumstances.

Despite shortcomings in the bill, I was pleased to see that states will now be required to collect and report data on incidences of bullying and harassment in school—an issue I have been working on for many years. It is a small, but powerful step in ensuring all children feel safe at school.

I voted for this bill because No Child Left Behind is simply not working. In four years, I look forward to revisiting reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to achieve an even more effective long-term policy.

IN HONOR OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE IMMIGRANT WELCOME CENTER

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. I rise today to honor the Immigrant Welcome Center, whose tireless work over the past ten years has blessed countless Hoosiers in my hometown of Indianapolis.

The Immigrant Welcome Center was founded in 2005 by Mayor Bart Peterson and First Lady Amy Minick Peterson who sought to discover ways the City of Indianapolis could be more welcoming to its newest residents. Serving as a trusted liaison between newcomers and the community at large, the Immigrant Welcome Center provides a strong and positive voice for the foreign-born newcomers who represent 120 different nationalities and speak more than 90 languages. Today the organization continues to build connections between immigrants and the city's social, cultural and business communities, making Indianapolis a more diverse and innovative place for all residents.

The Immigrant Welcome Center is built on a model of empowerment that trains immigrants

and refugees as Natural Helpers in understanding the resources and opportunities available in our community. These Natural Helpers then help their fellow foreign-born brothers and sisters navigate the maze of available services and connect them to people, places and resources necessary to build successful lives. The organization has also helped make Indianapolis a leader among welcoming cities across the United States as part of the national Welcoming America Initiative's programs and outreach.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Immigrant Welcome Center for its efforts to strengthen and integrate our growing foreign-born community, helping make Indianapolis a more welcoming and vibrant international city.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK TAKAI

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. TAKAI. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, December 2, I was absent from the House due to illness. Due to my absence, I am not recorded on any legislative measures for the day. I would like to reflect how I would have voted had I been present for legislative business.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on Roll Call 653, the previous question providing for consideration of the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015.

I would have voted "no" on Roll Call 654, the rule providing for consideration of the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015.

I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call 655, the Democratic Motion to Instruct Conferees on the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015.

I would have voted "no" on Roll Call 656, the Upton of Michigan Amendment No. 1 to the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015.

I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call 657, the Tonko of New York Amendment No. 2 to the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015.

I would have voted "no" on Roll Call 658, the Gene Green of Texas Amendment No. 14 to the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015.

I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call 659, the Beyer of Virginia Amendment No. 17 to the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015.

I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call 660, the Schakowsky of Illinois Amendment No. 19 to the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015.

I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call 661, the Tonko of New York Amendment No. 22 to the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015.

I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call 662, the Schakowsky of Illinois Amendment No. 19 to the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015.

I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call 663, the Castor of Florida Amendment No. 23 to the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015.

I would have voted "no" on Roll Call 664, the Barton of Texas Amendment No. 25 to the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015.

I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call 665, agreeing to the Conference Report to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

CONGRATULATING TURKEY FOR
HOSTING THE ANNUAL G20
LEADERS SUMMIT IN ANTALYA,
NOVEMBER 15-16, 2015

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Republic of Turkey for hosting the successful annual G20 Leader's Summit in Antalya, November 15-16, 2015.

While Syria and the fight against terrorists was already on the agenda, the Paris terrorist attacks by ISIS ensured that these issues remained in the forefront. Ultimately, the G20 countries issued a strong statement condemning the heinous terrorist attacks, uniting to combat them, remain committed to fighting the financial tools used, and supporting a comprehensive approach to one of the international community's greatest challenges in this century.

The G20 was established on September 26, 1999 when the Finance Ministers of the G7 countries (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States) came together after the Asian financial crisis. The inaugural meeting was held in Berlin in December 1999.

The G20 countries are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union. The economies of the countries combined account for 85% of the global economic output, 80% of world trade, and 65% of the world's population.

When the group met for the first time in Washington, DC represented by world leaders in 2008, they discussed ways to respond collectively to the 2008-09 crisis to restore growth, strengthen the global financial system, and reform international financial institutions.

Turkey officially took over the presidency of the G20 from Australia in December 1, 2014 and China will preside over the organization in 2016.

The other three key objectives of the 2015 G20 Leader's Summit in Antalya were strengthening the global recovery, enhancing resilience, and buttressing sustainability.

Turkey's growing economy is significant because Turkey's companies are expanding and trading with not only traditional markets such as neighboring countries or the European Union, but Turkish firms are also increasingly looking to invest in the United States, including Indian country.

I am proud to have sponsored legislation which facilitated the investment from not only Turkey, but all WTO countries in native lands.

As a member of Congress who has long championed US-Turkish relations and eco-

nomics integration, I congratulate Turkey on hosting this important summit at a challenging time.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF CHARLES W. MARSH

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Charles W. Marsh, who celebrates his 100th birthday on December 6th in Hanson, Massachusetts.

Mr. Marsh embodies the quintessential American story. Born in Massachusetts in 1915 to a mother who came to the United States from Ireland with his older sister, Olive, Mr. Marsh lived in the town of Weymouth with his family until he joined the U.S. Army.

After serving overseas in Germany, he returned to the United States and continued to support his country through the critical work of the Quincy Shipyard. Following this time, Mr. Marsh remained in Quincy and began his long and dedicated career as an auto body worker.

A gifted marksman with rifle and bow, Mr. Marsh was an outdoorsman at heart. He was so renowned for his knowledge of New England's beaches and coastline that, during the blizzard of 1978, he was called upon by the U.S. Coast Guard to assist in search and rescue operations.

During his time working in Quincy, Mr. Marsh and his wife, Miriam, built a house on Gurnet Point in Plymouth, Massachusetts. For 16 years, they were the first year-round residents on this small historic peninsula, named by the Pilgrims in the 1600s for its resemblance to headlands in the English Channel where gurnett fish were plentiful. Deciding that a change of scenery was in order, the Marshes then moved north to the picturesque shores of Lake Winnepesaukee in Alton, New Hampshire.

Mr. Marsh will be celebrating his centennial birthday surrounded by four generations of loving family, which has grown to include three children, eight grandchildren, eleven great grandchildren and three great, great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Charles W. Marsh on his 100th birthday. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing him many more years of health and happiness.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, December 2, 2015 I was inadvertently detained on roll call vote 656, the Manager's Amendment. I was on a very important phone call with my constituents. Had I been present to vote I would have voted 'aye.'

TRIBUTE TO YOUNG STAFF MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS AND THE UNITED STATES

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress we know well, perhaps better than most, how blessed our nation is to have in reserve such exceptional young men and women who will go on to become leaders in their local communities, states, and the nation in the areas of business, education, government, philanthropy, the arts and culture, and the military.

We know this because we see them and benefit from their contributions every day. Many of them work for us in our offices as junior staff members, congressional fellows, or interns and they do amazing work for and on behalf of the constituents we are privileged to represent.

Mr. Speaker, I believe there is no higher calling than the call to serve a cause larger than ourselves. That is why I ran for public office. I was inspired to serve by President Kennedy who said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country," and by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who said: "Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. . . . You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

By this measure, there are several other great young men and women who served as volunteers this year in my offices. They may toil in obscurity but their contributions to the constituents we serve are deeply appreciated. That is why today I rise to pay tribute to six extraordinary young persons for their service to my constituents in the 18th Congressional District of Texas and to the American people. They are: Erin Wallace from Texas Tech University; Tyler Ford from North Carolina State University; Brandon Jester from Georgia Southern University; Benjamin Warheit from University of California at Santa Barbara; Talha Jilani from Sidwell Friends School; and Asad Moten from Harvard University and the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

Mr. Speaker, the energy, intelligence, and idealism these wonderful young people brought to my office and those interning in the offices of my colleagues help keep our democracy vibrant. The insights, skills, and knowledge of the governmental process they gain from their experiences will last a lifetime and prove invaluable to them as they go about making their mark in this world.

Because of persons like them the future of our country is bright and its best days lie ahead. I wish them all well.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that such thoughtful committed young men and women can be found working in my office, those of my colleagues, and in every community in America. Their good works will keep America great, good, and forever young.

PROMOTING HEALTHY CHILDREN

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Harmony Science Academy in Katy, Texas for winning the It's Time Texas (ITT) Growing Healthy Schools campaign.

The Growing Healthy Schools campaign helps organize and fundraise for projects to improve health and wellness in the school's community. For their project, Harmony Science Academy chose to construct a new soccer field to encourage everybody to get outside and get moving. Of the 17 participating schools, Harmony Science was selected to receive \$10,000 to complete their project. What an incredible accomplishment for the entire school community.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Harmony Science Academy for promoting healthy living. We're ready to get out on the field and play.

CONGRATULATING MISS ERICKA WHEELER ON HER SELECTION AS A RHODES SCHOLAR

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary young scholar, Miss Ericka Wheeler. Ericka is currently a senior at Millsap College majoring in English and History with plans to become a physician after watching her grandfather suffer from Alzheimer's disease.

Ericka wrote a thesis tracking how police brutality and race have been treated in fiction since the 1930s. She attended Greenwood High School for two years, followed by her junior and senior year at the Mississippi School of Math and Science in Columbus.

Her journeys so far have taken her from Mississippi to Cambodia and Cuba. Her next stop will be England, as a Rhodes Scholar. She is the first African-American woman from Mississippi to claim the prestigious honor and has been chosen as one of 32 U.S. men and women who will enter Oxford University next fall for postgraduate study. Ericka, who plans to attend medical school later, said she will study medical anthropology.

Millsap's President Robert Pearigen said Wheeler's devotion to Mississippi's Delta region is part of what makes her special. "She encountered some of the greatest poverty and starkest racial divisions found in the developed world," Pearigen said in a statement. "She is bound to the place by a sense of duty but is motivated to care for it by a love for its people."

Ericka said she was inspired to become a physician after watching her grandfather suffer from Alzheimer's disease. Since his death, she's worked with other Alzheimer's patients to record their life stories, producing documents for their families.

Wheeler credited the impetus for her application to history Professor Robert McElvaine.

As a student of McElvaine, Wheeler traveled to Vietnam and Cambodia after her freshman year and to Cuba after her sophomore year. "I remember him saying the chances weren't very great at all, but it would be a good process to go through," Wheeler said. "They didn't want to get my hopes up."

I urge Miss Wheeler to continue to break barriers and strive for academic excellence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Miss Ericka Wheeler for her dedication to serving others and scholastic achievement.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CAREER AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF ISMAEL AHMED

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ismael Ahmed for his extraordinary career in service to our community. Ish, as he is known by friends, family and colleagues, has enriched the lives of so many in our region through his tireless, collaborative efforts for understanding and civil rights.

Born in 1947 in New York, Ish and his family moved to the Detroit area when he was six. After graduating from Dearborn's Fordson High School, he set off to explore the world, working as a deck hand on freighters. Eventually Ish returned to Dearborn, where he gained employment at the Ford Rouge plant and worked his way through college, first at Henry Ford Community College, then graduating from University of Michigan Dearborn. After his graduation, Ish became involved in his community, organizing workers and seeking justice in his community.

In 1971, along with a dedicated group of volunteers and activists, Ish co-founded ACCESS the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services in a storefront in Dearborn's south end, to help assist the Arab immigrant population as they adapted to life in the U.S. In 1983, he was appointed as Executive Director of ACCESS and worked diligently on its programming and growth. Today, ACCESS is the largest Arab American human services nonprofit in the country, serving nearly 900,000 people through more than 100 programs aimed at supporting economic, health, social, and educational needs. For this reason among others, Ish is recognized as a national Arab American and civil rights leader committed to ending hatred and bigotry and seeking justice for all Americans.

In 2007, Governor Jennifer Granholm appointed Ish as the director of the Michigan Department of Human Services, where he successfully led the state's second largest department for three years. As Department of Human Services' director, he served on the Michigan State Housing Development Authority board and the Early Childhood Investment Corporation executive committee. In 2011, Ish returned to the University of Michigan Dearborn and has served as the Senior Advisor to the Chancellor and Associate Provost for Metropolitan Impact. In this role, Ish has built bridges and made major positive impacts in our region.

Ish has also generously given his time and support to a wide array of Southeast Michigan

organizations further establishing him as a critical leader in a wide array of community, political, non-profit and cultural institutions such as: the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, United Way, Reading Works, the Arab American National Museum, Eastern Michigan University's Board of Regents, Arab American Institute, Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Association of Performing Arts Presenters, University of Michigan Citizens Advisory Board, Fair Food Network, and the New Detroit Coalition.

Most remarkably, Ish's family has graciously shared his talents and time with our community. He is a loving husband to his wife Margaret, father to his five children, and grandfather to two. I know in his retirement he is looking forward to spending more time with them.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Ismael Ahmed for his lifetime of service and lasting impact on our region and country. We thank him for his leadership, and wish him many years of happiness and success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call 650 on final passage of S.J. Res. 24, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the EPA's CO₂ rule for existing power plants, I would have voted Aye, which is consistent with my position on this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 658 I mistakenly pressed NAY when I intended to vote YEA.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on December 2, 2015, I was unable to vote on the Conference Report to accompany S. 1177, the Every Student Succeeds Act (Roll Call Number 655). Had I been present, I would have voted Yes.

"BILLIONAIRE BONANZA"— WEALTH INEQUALITY IN AMERICA

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring my colleagues' attention to a re-

cent report from the Institute for Policy Studies, "Billionaire Bonanza: the Forbes 400 and the Rest of Us."

This report exposes just how drastic wealth inequality in America has become. As a whole, America is now wealthier than it has ever been before. But that wealth is concentrated in the hands of just a few Americans. The 20 wealthiest individual Americans have more wealth than the lowest 50% combined—that is, 20 Americans with more wealth than 152 million Americans.

The report "Billionaire Bonanza" found that the wealthiest 186 members of the Forbes 400 own as much wealth as the entire Latino population in America. The wealthiest 100 households in America own about as much wealth as the entire African American population in the United States. Economic inequality is also racial inequality.

Congress needs to enact common-sense policies to close the loopholes that have allowed for this extreme wealth inequality. It is time to raise revenue so we can increase opportunities for those at the lowest rung of the economic ladder to climb toward the top. I thank Chuck Collins and Josh Hoxie, the authors of this critical report, and I urge my colleagues to consider their proposals and to take action against the unsustainable concentration of wealth in America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 659, I was unavoidably detained off the House Floor and was unable to cast a vote. Had I been present, I would have voted no.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call Vote Numbers 660, 661, 663, and 664, I was unavoidably detained and unable to cast my votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on Roll Call Numbers 660, 661, and 663 and I would have voted "yes" on roll call vote number 664.

RECOGNIZING HAROLD GRIFFITH

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Harold Griffith on being selected for induction into the Farm Credit Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame. This honor is reserved for those who have made a significant contribution to the agricultural industry of Colorado and the United States.

Currently, Mr. Griffith resides in Fort Morgan where he has been a leader in the dairy in-

dustry. He has been a pioneer by developing programs through the Dairy Catch It Program, which helps youth pursue careers in agriculture. Mr. Griffith clearly understands the importance of giving back to his community.

In addition, Mr. Griffith has extensive knowledge of Colorado water rights. This ultimately led to him being asked to serve on Governor Ritter's Water Task Force. Griffith has shown true leadership in his industry and community.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes as Mr. Griffith pursues his future endeavors. His passion and dedication to the agricultural industry makes him more than worthy of this distinct recognition. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Harold Griffith for his accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. LUTHER CONYERS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend an outstanding public servant and champion of education, Mr. Luther Conyers. Mr. Conyers will be retiring this month after serving 37 years on the Bainbridge City Council in Bainbridge, Georgia. He was first elected to the Bainbridge City Council in 1977 but his passion as an educator began long before then.

Mr. Conyers earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture in 1948 from Georgia State Industrial College, now Savannah State University, where he met his wife, Gwendolyn. Their daughters, Audrey and Luthenya, and their granddaughter, Leslie also attended Savannah State University so it is no wonder that the Conyers family was chosen as "SSU Family of the Year" in 2009. Mr. and Mrs. Conyers, co-sponsors of the Conyers-Kirbo Endowed Scholarship Fund for the school, were inducted into the 2015 Hall of Fame at Savannah State University.

Mr. Conyers first taught in the Institutional On-Farm Training Program designed for World War II veterans before joining the U.S. Army. He completed basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina and advanced training at Fort Bliss, Texas, before deploying to Korea, where he served 16 months and 27 days. He earned three Bronze Stars as a member of the transportation crew and he taught education classes while deployed.

After returning home to Bainbridge in 1942, he served as a substitute teacher and enrolled at Fort Valley State College, now University. He was employed at Randolph County High School for six months, and beginning in 1954, he taught at Bainbridge Elementary School. He earned a Master's in Education from Florida A&M University in 1961. In 1965, he transferred to Hutto High School in Bainbridge to teach social studies before transferring to Hutto Junior High School in 1970, where he taught eighth and ninth grade.

Throughout his tenure of service on the Bainbridge City Council, Mr. Conyers has been a champion of education but most importantly, he has given his all to improving the community he serves. In recognition of his efforts, in 2008, Mr. Conyers was inducted into

the Georgia Municipal Government Hall of Fame, which “recognizes current and former city officials who have made extraordinary contributions to their communities and actively participated in the Association.” In 2012, he was one of four city officials to receive the prestigious Certificate of Distinction from the Georgia Municipal Training Institute at the Georgia Municipal Association’s (GMA) Annual Mayors’ Day Conference. He has actively served on GMA committees that oversee employee retirement benefits and training courses for leaders of cities across Georgia.

Mr. Conyers is heavily involved in the community and is a member of the Rotary Club, American Legion Post No. 502, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and Bainbridge-Decatur County Chamber of Commerce. He is also the City Council’s liaison to the city’s Planning Commission and teaches about planning and zoning issues during Bainbridge’s annual Student Government Days.

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays often said: “You make your living by what you get, you make your life by what you give.” Throughout his life, Mr. Conyers has done so much for so many for so long. He is an example of public service at its finest and his advocacy on behalf of students of all ages has been invaluable throughout the state of Georgia. His service to his country and his community are but a small testimony to the high caliber of character that he embodies.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me and my wife Vivian, and the more than 730,000 people of Georgia’s Second Congressional District, in recognizing and commending Mr. Luther Conyers for his leadership in education and service to his community.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION HONORING BERRY GORDY

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution honoring the achievements of Berry Gordy, Jr. and his musical legacy, Motown Records. By establishing the Motown record label in 1959 in Detroit, MI, Mr. Gordy cultivated the careers of musical legends such as Smokey Robinson, Michael Jackson, Diana Ross, Stevie Wonder, and many, many more. Not only did the music of Motown advance its way to the top of the charts and the front of the music scene with timeless hits such as “Please Mr. Postman” and “Ain’t No Mountain High Enough,” but it also communicated across race barriers and touched people regardless of the color of their skin. In a racially divided and politically charged time, Motown Records, under the leadership of Mr. Gordy, was the first to integrate an all-white sales department and produce music beloved by all.

Mr. Gordy’s accomplishments are reflected in his numerous awards and recognitions including his induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, his autobiography “To Be Loved: The Music, the Magic, the Memories of Motown,” and the Broadway success of “Motown The Musical.”

Decades after its inception, Motown is remembered as one of the most significant creative outlets of the 20th century, and the music it fostered continues to entertain and inspire us all. Thanks to Mr. Gordy, Motown created a uniquely American sound and defined the American experience for generations. Through this resolution, we recognize and thank Mr. Gordy for creating a timeless musical sound, for being a force of positive social change, and for his countless contributions to American culture.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I was not present in the House chamber for the following roll call votes. Had I been present on November 16th, 17th, 19th and 30th, I would have voted “yea” on roll calls 627, 628, 632, 640, 642, 644 and 645 and “nay” on roll calls 626, 629, 630, 631, 633, 638, 639, 641 and 643.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, on December 2, 2015, the House took roll call vote 644. I am recorded as voting “aye” on this amendment, but I want to reflect that I intended to vote “no” and oppose the Barton of Texas Amendment No. 25 to H.R. 8.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MAGGIE LOUISE KNIGHT KNOX

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to a terrific educator and beloved mother, grandmother and cousin, Mrs. Maggie Louise Knight Knox of Martin County, North Carolina. Sadly, Mrs. Knox passed away on Saturday, November 28, 2015. A Homegoing Celebration will be held on Friday, December 4, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at the Michigan Park Christian Church in Washington, D.C.

Born on February 3, 1928 to the late Annie Slade Knight and Eddie Knight, Maggie Louise Knight Knox, known as Louise or Lou to family and friends, grew up on the family farm in Martin County, North Carolina. She developed a passion for education early on and immediately upon graduation from Winston Salem State University, she began her teaching career within the Charles County Public School System.

Her abiding commitment to education was reflected in her personal academic achievements, as she pursued a higher level of edu-

cation with her enrollment at the D.C. Teachers’ College. She participated in the Teachers’ Program at Columbia University, culminating in her receipt of a Master’s Degree in Education at Trinity College. Ultimately, Maggie Louise accepted a tenured position as a third grade teacher at J.C. Nalle Elementary School in Southeast Washington, D.C.

After nurturing and educating three generations of students, Maggie Louise retired with more than thirty years of service as an educator. She was considered to be one of the most respected Reading Specialists in District of Columbia Public Schools. Even after her retirement and to this day, she is fondly remembered by many of her students.

Her passion for education mirrored her everlasting faith as a woman of God. Accepting Christ as her Savior at an early age, Maggie Louise began her Christian life in Martin County, North Carolina and continued her Christian journey in Washington, D.C. where she became an active member in Michigan Park Christian Church in 1960. She brought her God-given teaching talents into the church, teaching Vacation Bible School and Sunday school. She was a chairperson of the Diaconate and a member the Christian Women’s Fellowship. As is the church’s tradition, in her eightieth year of life, Maggie Louise Knight Knox was humbly inducted into the Diamond Club.

To Maggie Louise, family was everything. It was on May 5, 1950, in Washington, D.C., that Maggie Louise married her loving husband, Mr. Reese Conway Knox. Devoted and committed to each other, the union of Maggie Louise and Reese produced three beautiful daughters: Regina Louise, Denise Yvette and Edna Teresa.

On a more personal note, Maggie Louise and I are born of the same lineage—the Slades of North Carolina. The union of Simon and Anna Slade produced thirteen children. Of those children, Walter Columbus Slade (grandfather of Maggie Louise) and Robert Slade (my grandfather), were born. Maggie retained many valuable lessons from her youth, but the most important one came from her grandfather, Walter Columbus Slade: “Always stick together.” Maggie fervently adopted this as a guiding force throughout her life and passed that same value to her daughters and grandchildren. The concept of “staying together” is extremely important in our family. We annually gather for reunions throughout the nation and remain close with one another throughout our lives.

George Washington Carver once said, “How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong because someday in your life you will have been all of these.” Maggie Louise was a gentle and loving woman who treated all people with respect. She loved her God. Her wisdom and kindness goes unmatched, and her gentle soul served humanity in a special way. Each day she graced the people around her with an enthusiastic sincerity of presence. The impression she leaves on earth extends beyond herself to those whom she inspired and supported, and for it she will be remembered for time to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me and my wife, Vivian, in paying tribute to Mrs. Maggie

Louise Knight Knox for her outstanding achievements, service, and public distinction. We pray that her children, grandchildren and loved ones will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE IN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WITH SENATOR PAUL SIMON AWARD

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to recognize Mount Holyoke College and its accomplishments in international education. On November 17, Mount Holyoke College President Lynn Pasquerella accepted the 2015 Senator Paul Simon Award for excellence in international education at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. The week of November 16 marked the 16th anniversary of International Education Week.

Mount Holyoke College, located in South Hadley, Massachusetts, was among five institutions selected to receive this prestigious honor from NAFSA: Association of International Educators. The designation is given to institutions that demonstrate significant progress in expanding the reach and fostering collaboration among students, faculty, and staff in the interest of internationalization.

Twenty-five percent of Mount Holyoke students are international citizens and the college boasts a rich tradition of leadership in international education. Mount Holyoke was among the first institutions to send women abroad for scholarly study. Additionally, the McCulloch Center for Global Initiatives was established in 2004 to serve as a catalyst for comprehensive international education.

According to Eva Paus, Carol Hoffmann Collins Director of the McCulloch Center for Global Initiatives and professor of economics, international education became a strategic priority at Mount Holyoke in 2003, following on a legacy of international engagement reaching back to the early days of the college's founding. The McCulloch Center, which Professor Paus helped found, brought greater cohesion and visibility to international education; and its many initiatives across Mount Holyoke have increased students' understanding of the global world and their engagement with other cultures.

In classes and through off-campus experiences, students and faculty analyze questions from cross-disciplinary or cross-cultural perspectives, making connections between the local and the global, and harnessing classroom learning to solve concrete problems. The many forms of integrative and cross-cultural teaching and learning at Mount Holyoke and abroad support the college's goal of educating women to be the global leaders of tomorrow.

Today, Mount Holyoke is committed to giving all students access to the life-changing experiences that learning abroad often provides. Over the past few years, it has funded nearly all students who apply for a Laurel Fellowship in support of study abroad. Additionally, a 2013 pledge to fund one summer internship or

research experience for every student now makes it possible for all interested students to have an internship abroad.

Mount Holyoke was joined in receiving the 2015 Simon Award for Comprehensive Internationalization by North Central College of Naperville, Illinois, the University of Delaware, the University of San Diego, and the University of Virginia. President Pasquerella participated in a panel discussion on internationalization in higher education with presidents of the other award-winning institutions to promote this vital pursuit. The award is named for noted Illinois Senator Paul Simon.

Mr. Speaker, through courses, conferences, research, international internships, study abroad, collaborations with external partners, and the unique learning opportunities offered by international student and faculty diversity, Mount Holyoke College students acquire the skills they will need for citizenship and careers in today's global world. At a time when the ability to work across national borders is crucial to addressing global problems, I wish Mount Holyoke College and the McCulloch Center for Global Initiatives continued success in their future endeavors.

WELCOME LUCY GRACE STIPICEVIC

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to congratulate Deputy Chief of Staff for Floor and Member Services John Stipicevic and his wife, Kristin Stipicevic, Executive Assistant in the Office of the Majority Leader, on the birth of their new baby girl. Lucy Grace Stipicevic was born at 11:15 a.m. on Saturday, November 28, 2015. Born at Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington, D.C., Lucy weighed seven pounds and two ounces and measured 19 and $\frac{3}{4}$ inches long. She is the first child for the happy couple and I have no doubt her talented parents will be dedicated to her well-being and bright future.

I would also like to congratulate Lucy's grandparents, James and Katherine Stipicevic of Yonkers, New York, and Tim and Jan Thomson of Buttonwillow, California. Congratulations to the entire Stipicevic and Thomson families as they welcome their newest addition of pure pride and joy.

RECOGNIZING DR. KELCEY SWYERS

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Kelcey Swyers on being selected as the 2016 Rising Star in Colorado Agriculture. This honor is reserved for those who have made a significant contribution to the agricultural industry of Colorado and the United States.

Dr. Swyers has an extensive background in Colorado agriculture. She received a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science and Agricultural

Business from Colorado State University, where she also worked two internships that taught her about the feed and nutrition industry. She later went on to receive a Master of Science in Equine/Monogastric nutrition at the University of Maryland. She then returned to Colorado where she received her Doctorate in Ruminant Nutrition.

In addition, Dr. Swyers started Grassland Nutrition Consulting where she offers nutritional work for cow-calf, feed yard, and equine among other services. Dr. Swyers has shown true leadership in her industry and community.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes as Dr. Swyers pursues her future endeavors. Her passion and dedication to the agricultural industry makes her more than worthy of this distinct recognition. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Dr. Kelcey Swyers for her accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF ROBERTA SANDLER

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Roberta Sandler a New Jersey native who is celebrating her 100th birthday on December 7, 2015.

Roberta was born on December 7, 1915, and was one of nine children. She was born and raised in Camden, New Jersey and moved to Brooklyn to raise her three children, Marvin, Paul and Lynn, along with her husband Max. After her husband's death Roberta went to work to support her family. After her time in New York, she moved back to the state she loved and has been a resident of Cherry Hill for the last 35 years.

Age does not seem to affect Ms. Sandler, she still exercises every day; does all her own cooking and cleaning; and as a loving matriarch, insists on cooking at all family gatherings. She stays very active in the lives of her family including her 4 granddaughters Meridith, Jodi, Julie, and Jillian and her two great granddaughters Isabel and Andrea. She loves to sing, dance, and continues to keep up with current events.

Mr. Speaker, on this momentous occasion, please join me in wishing Roberta Sandler a happy and joyous 100th birthday.

VOTE EXPLANATION ON H.R. 8, THE NORTH AMERICAN ENERGY SECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE ACT

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to clarify my position on a vote cast on December 3, 2015. The vote was on passage of H.R. 8, the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act.

H.R. 8 contains a number of provisions that would negatively impact the environment and undermine our nation's ability to move away from fossil fuels and proactively combat climate change. It would undermine previously

enacted initiatives to modernize our energy infrastructure and increase our energy efficiency capacity.

Furthermore, H.R. 8 includes unnecessary provisions that would expand FERC's authority to approve natural gas pipeline applications within 90 days—effectively stifling public comment opportunities, regardless of the complexity of the pipeline project.

This legislation would provide unnecessary handouts to the fossil fuel industry at a time when we should be focusing on expanding our nation's clean, renewable energy portfolio.

On Roll Call Vote Number 672, I voted 'aye.' It was my intention to vote "no."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call 651 on final passage of S.J. Res. 23, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the EPA's CO₂ rule for new power plants, I would have voted aye, which is consistent with my position on this legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF SERGEANT MICHAEL FOX

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with Representative KENNEDY to recognize the distinguished career of Police Sergeant Michael Fox on the occasion of his retirement. Sergeant Fox has served in law enforcement for 42 years—35 years of which were spent with the Easton Police Department in Massachusetts.

It was while attending Massasoit Community College and interning at the Brockton Police department that Sergeant Fox first began working at the Massachusetts Correctional Institution—Cedar Junction in Walpole, Massachusetts as the youngest corrections officer in the prison. During his seven years of service there, he interacted with and bore witness to life within prison walls. These experiences imparted on him a desire to serve on the front lines of community protection, and directly assist and mentor the men and women he had met serving in correctional institutions.

In 1974, Sergeant Fox and his wife, Liz, returned to Easton—a picturesque farm town. He became a special police officer in 1978 and, within two years, a full time patrolman. Among his many proud achievements, Sergeant Fox speaks most passionately about his role as one of the first officers in Massachusetts to be part of the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program. For decades, he has educated students and the youth in his community about the reality and dangers of drug abuse, encouraging them to make responsible and informed decisions. As testament to this dedication, Sergeant Fox became part of the team that trained new D.A.R.E. officers across more than 10 states, and served as the president of Massachusetts' D.A.R.E. Officers Association.

Over the years, Sergeant Fox's hard work, commitment, and positive demeanor earned him the title of Detective. Through it all, despite the tenuous and at times saddening cases that crossed his desk, Sergeant Fox remained a dedicated officer who is revered and respected by all in the Easton Police Department and the Town.

Mr. Speaker, it brings us great pride to recognize the retirement of Sergeant Michael Fox. While we are sure that his colleagues at the Easton Police Department will miss him dearly, we wish him nothing but the very best in his future plans. We ask that our colleagues join us in thanking Sergeant Fox for over four decades of service and the tremendous ways in which he has benefited and served our community.

HONORING MR. ROBERT YOUNG

HON. THOMAS MacARTHUR

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert Joseph Young of New Jersey's Third Congressional District, and to express my deepest appreciation to him and his family.

Mr. Young served our country in the United States Navy. He defended our freedom in Okinawa and the Philippines during World War II. His service to our nation secures his spot as a member of our country's Greatest Generation.

Mr. Young was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with two Bronze Service Stars, a WWII Victory Medal, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Bronze Star, the Honorable Service Lapel Button WWII, and a Certificate of Recognition for serving the United States during the Cold War.

Mr. Speaker, the people of New Jersey's Third Congressional District are tremendously grateful for Mr. Robert Joseph Young's service to our nation. It is my honor to recognize his achievements before the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING ONE OF MINNESOTA'S FINEST FAMILIES

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor all Minnesotans, and all Americans, who served in World War II, and I would like to recognize the service of one Minnesota family in particular.

In 1885, Carl Nolte moved to Martin County, Minnesota with his wife Louise. They had twelve children and numerous grandchildren.

Many years after the Nolte family first came to Minnesota; an impressive thirty-six members of the family joined the armed forces and served in World War II.

Fortunately, all thirty-six family members survived the war. However, both Earle Nolte, son of Fred Nolte, and Reinhardt Wessel, son of Amanda Nolte Wessel, were wounded during their service.

It is often said that those who served in World War II belong to the "Greatest Generation." I believe that the heroism and the dedication that this family demonstrated prove this to be true.

I would like to thank this family for their service to our nation and I would also like to wish one of them a very happy birthday. This week, Loren Wessel of Truman, Minnesota, turned ninety-six years old. Happy Birthday Loren.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF THE LATE NAUSEAD LYVELLE STEWART, ESQ

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of an extraordinary public servant, the late Nausead Lyvelle Stewart.

Nausead was born August 15, 1931 in Starkville, Mississippi to Tommy James Stewart and Rosa Rogers Stewart. Upon graduation from Oktibbeha County Training High School, she chose to attend Tougaloo College where she graduated with honors in History and Home Economics. Afterwards, she taught high school history for thirteen years in West Point, Mississippi, while acquiring her M.A. degree from Atlanta University.

Nausead entered the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1967 and graduated with honors in May, 1970, where she was the first African American law student to serve on the law journal. In law school, she roomed with Constance Slaughter Harvey, who finished the law school a semester earlier, as the first African American female graduate. Nausead contributed immensely to the legal profession and the pursuit of equal justice for all.

Upon graduation, she, along with her classmate Geraldine Harrington Carnes, was hired by the Lawyers Constitutional Defense Committee (LCDC) to assist the then director, Armand Derfner and Jim Lewis with civil rights litigation.

A year later, when LCDC closed its Mississippi Office, Nausead was hired to work across the street at Anderson, Banks, Nichols and Leventhal to assist with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund (LDF) civil rights litigation. That work consisted primarily of dealing with the post desegregation discriminatory practices in teacher and administrator hiring and retention. Nausead played a primary role in litigating several cases to assure the enforcement of the Uniform Singleton Decree. That Decree provided for the utilization of objective non-racial standards in determining which education professionals would be retained should desegregation result in a loss of positions due to duplication. It also provided a first right of refusal for subsequent new openings to any professionals who were not rehired because of such duplication. Additionally, Nausead worked on other successful employment class actions against large employers in our state. A case law query will reveal some of the great work that she did during this era and continuing in to the 1980s.

In 1975, Nausead became a partner and the firm name was changed to Anderson, Banks, Nichols and Stewart.

Three years later, Nausead left the firm to assume the position as head of the Jackson Office for the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, thus completing the circle of having been a lawyer for the three foremost civil rights legal offices in the 1960s and 70s, the Lawyers Committee, NAACP LDF, and LCDC.

In the 1980s, the Lawyers Committee closed its Jackson Office, whereupon, Nausead joined the Walker and Walker firm in Jackson, headed by John L. Walker and William Walker, Jr. While working there, Nausead handled the firm's appellate work and motion practice and was a mentor for James E. Graves, Jr. and Regina Quinn who also worked there during her tenure. In 1982, Nausead offered her services to the citizens of Hinds County for the County Court Judge position thus becoming the first African American female judicial candidate.

After practicing law with the Walker and Walker firm for several years, Nausead assumed a position with Minact Inc. where she engaged in grant writing and compliance until her retirement.

On July 18, 2000 and during her retirement, Nausead served as a Jackson Civil Service Commissioner after having been appointed by Jackson Mayor Harvey Johnson and served until May 2, 2006.

Nausead took great pride in community services on numerous boards of community organizations and received awards for her work with those organizations. She was a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. which she joined while at Tougaloo College.

Nausead was preceded in death by her aforementioned parents. She is survived by her sister, Doris Anderson; brother, and Thomas J. Stewart, Jr.

Mr. Speaker, on November 10, 2015, we lost a treasure in Nausead. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing a diligent advo-

cate, a conscientious worker, and a selfless servant leader whose life was dedicated to the cause of humanity, Nausead Lyvelle Stewart.

RECOGNIZING PARKLAND HEALTH AND HOSPITAL SYSTEM

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Parkland Health and Hospital System for being named a Top Hospital by the Leapfrog Group in 2015. Based on the Leapfrog Group's annual hospital survey measuring three significant areas of hospital care, Parkland earned honors for the first time as one of 62 top urban hospitals across the country.

Parkland Health and Hospital System opened in 1894 and is now one of the largest public hospital systems in the country. Averaging at one million patient visits annually, Parkland recently expanded to a brand new, state-of-the-art 2.8 million-square-foot campus with 862 single-patient rooms. Constantly growing, Parkland includes a Level I Trauma Center, the second largest civilian burn center in the U.S., a Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, 20 community-based clinics, 12 school-based clinics, and numerous outreach and education programs. Parkland is also the primary teaching hospital for the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center.

The Leapfrog Group is a national nonprofit group that advocates transparency in quality and safety of care in U.S. hospitals. The Leapfrog Hospital Survey collects and reports hospital performance so that patients can make informed decisions regarding where they receive care. The survey measures three areas

of hospital care: how patients fare, resource use, and management structures established to prevent errors. Earning this honor means that Parkland has lower infection rates, better health outcomes, decreased length of stay, and fewer hospital readmissions.

Given Parkland's track record, especially their recent transfer of 626 patients from their old facility to the new Parkland Memorial Hospital without incident or interruption in patient care, I believe Parkland deserves to be named a top hospital. The move was conducted on foot via the Mike Myers Sky Bridge that connects the facilities and was planned with precision for months prior. This is just one prime example of Parkland's many contributions to Dallas County.

Congratulations to Parkland on this well-deserved recognition. I am proud to have Parkland in my district and I congratulate the board, clinicians, and staff on this hard-earned honor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, on December 2, 2015, during rollcall vote No. 665 on the passage of S. 1177, the Every Child Achieves Act of 2015, I was recorded as not voting. Although I was present on the floor at the time, my vote was misreported, and I fully intended to vote 'no' on rollcall vote No. 665. Therefore, I would like to state that I did not support the passage of S. 1177, the Every Child Achieves Act of 2015.